

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for processing user queries for supplemental content related to a television program being displayed by an interactive television system without requiring existing contextual information associated with the television program to be specifically programmed to trigger the display of particular supplemental content, the method comprising:

receiving a user command to find supplemental content, wherein the user command is received in response to a user activating a specifically-designated button on a remote control device for the interactive television system;

obtaining contextual information including at least one keyword from closed captioning text pertaining to the television program being displayed at the time the user command is received;

sending an information request to a content source, the information request comprising the contextual information; and

in response to the content source identifying supplemental content related to the television program being displayed based upon the contextual information, retrieving the supplemental content from the content source for display by the interactive television system.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the supplemental content is displayed by the interactive television system user command is received in response to the a user activating the a specifically-designated button on a remote control device for the interactive television system.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
reading an indication of the television program being displayed from electronic
programming guide (EPG) data associated with the television program.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
searching the content source for supplemental content related to an indication
of the television program being currently displayed; and
in response to supplemental content related to the indication of the television
program being found, retrieving the supplemental content for display by the
interactive television system.

7-10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
searching the content source for supplemental content comprising the at least
one keyword.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
in response to supplemental content comprising the at least one keyword not
being found at the content source:

searching a global information network for supplemental content comprising the at least one keyword; and retrieving the supplemental content from the global information network for display by the interactive television system.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
in response to supplemental content related to the television program not being found at the content source:
searching a global information network for supplemental content related to the television program based on the contextual information; and retrieving the supplemental content from the global information network for display by the interactive television system.
14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information request comprises an identifier of the interactive television system.
15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the identifier comprises a media access control (MAC) address.
16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the identifier comprises an Internet protocol (IP) address.
17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein retrieving comprises:

sending the identified supplemental content from the content source to an interactive television system associated with the identifier.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the contextual information further comprises an indication of a channel being displayed, the method further comprising:

using the indication of the channel to identify a content source to receive the information request.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying the supplemental content simultaneously with the television program.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

reducing the size of the displayed television program relative to the size of the displayed supplemental content.

21. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving comprises:

receiving a list of supplemental content items from the content source in response to a search by the content source;

receiving a user selection of a supplemental content item from the list; sending the user selection to the content source; and

retrieving from the content source the selected supplemental content item for display by the interactive television system.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the list comprises at least one link to an item of supplemental content stored at the content source.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the at least one link comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
filtering the list of items of supplemental content results based on a set of user preferences.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the information request comprises the set of user preferences.

26. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one user preference indicates a type of supplemental content to exclude.

27. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one user preference indicates a type of supplemental content preferred by the user.

28. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one user preference indicates a source of supplemental content preferred by the user.
29. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein at least one user preference is stored in response to historical analysis of user selections from prior lists of items of supplemental content.
30. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a list of supplemental content items from the content source in response to a search of a global information network;
 - receiving a user selection of a supplemental content item from the list; and
 - retrieving from the global information network the selected supplemental content item for display by the interactive television system.
31. (previously presented) A system for processing user queries for supplemental content related to a television program being displayed by an interactive television system without requiring existing contextual information associated with the television program to be specifically programmed to trigger the display of particular supplemental content, the system comprising:
 - a remote control device for the interactive television system, the remote control device comprising a specifically-designated button for requesting supplemental content related to the television program; and

a set top box for the interactive television system, the set top box being configured to obtain contextual information including at least one keyword from closed captioning text pertaining to the television program being displayed at the time the specifically-designated button is pressed, send an information request comprising the contextual information to a content source, and retrieve supplemental content from the content source for display by the interactive television system in response to the content source identifying supplemental content related to the television program based upon the contextual information.

32. (original) The system of claim 31, further comprising:

a display device for displaying the supplemental content retrieved from the content source.

33-34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the set top box is further configured to read an indication of the television program being displayed from electronic programming guide (EPG) data associated with the television program.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising:

a search engine configured to search the content source for supplemental content related to the indication of the television program and display any supplemental content that is found.

37-40. (canceled)

41. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising:
a search engine configured to search the content source for supplemental content comprising the at least one keyword.

42 (previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the search engine is further configured, in response to supplemental content comprising the at least one keyword not being found at the content source, to search a global information network for supplemental content comprising the at least one keyword; and wherein the set top box is further configured to retrieve the supplemental content from the global information network for display by the interactive television system.

43. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising:
a search engine configured, in response to supplemental content related to the television program not being found at the content source, to search a global information network for supplemental content related to the television program based on the contextual information; and

wherein the set top box is further configured to retrieve the supplemental content from the global information network for display by the interactive television system.

44. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein the information request comprises an identifier of the interactive television system.

45. (original) The system of claim 44, wherein the identifier comprises a media access control (MAC) address.

46. (original) The system of claim 44, wherein the identifier comprises an Internet protocol (IP) address.

47. (original) The system of claim 44, wherein the content source is configured to send the identified supplemental content to an interactive television system associated with the identifier.

48. (previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the contextual information further comprises an indication of a channel being displayed, and wherein the set top box is further configured to use the indication of the channel to identify a content source to receive the information request.

49. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein set top box is configured to simultaneously display the supplemental content with the television program.
50. (original) The system of claim 49, wherein the set top box is further configured to reduce the size of the displayed television program relative to the size of the displayed supplemental content.
51. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein the set top box is further configured to receive a list of supplemental content items from the content source in response to a search by the content source, receive a user selection of a supplemental content item from the list, send the user selection to the content source, and retrieve from the content source the selected supplemental content item for display by the interactive television system.
52. (original) The system of claim 51, wherein the list comprises at least one link to an item of supplemental content stored at the content source.
53. (original) The system of claim 52, wherein the at least one link comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).
54. (previously presented) The system of claim 51, further comprising:
a filtering component configured to filter the list of items of supplemental content results based on a set of user preferences.

55. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein the information request comprises the set of user preferences.

56. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein at least one user preference indicates a type of supplemental content to exclude.

57. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein at least one user preference indicates a type of supplemental content preferred by the user.

58. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein at least one user preference indicates a source of supplemental content preferred by the user.

59. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein at least one user preference is stored in response to historical analysis of user selections from prior lists of items of supplemental content.

60. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein the set top box is further configured to receive a list of supplemental content items from the content source in response to a search of a global information network, receive a user selection of a supplemental content item from the list, and retrieve from the global information network the selected supplemental content item for display by the interactive television system.

61. (currently amended) A machine-readable medium comprising program code, which, when executed by a machine, performs a method for single-button querying for supplemental content related to a television program being displayed by an interactive television system, the method comprising:

detecting a single button press on a remote control indicating a user command to find supplemental content; and

in response to the content source identifying supplemental content related to the television program being displayed based, at least in part, upon closed captioning information associated with the television program at the time at which the user command is received, retrieving the supplemental content from the content source for display by the interactive television system.